

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for obtaining configuration parameters for connecting to a network, the method
2 comprising:

3 storing a list of trusted configuration servers in a computer;

4 broadcasting a request for a configuration parameter from the computer to a plurality of
5 configuration servers;

6 receiving a response to the request for the configuration parameter at the computer, the
7 response being from a responding configuration server from the plurality of configuration
8 servers;

9 comparing an identity of the responding configuration server with the list of trusted
10 configuration servers; and

11 upon verifying that the responding configuration server is on the list of trusted
12 configuration servers, requesting configuration parameters from the responding configuration
13 server.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the list of trusted configuration servers is maintained on
2 a secure remote service card interface in the computer.

1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2 upon determining that the responding configuration server is not on the list of trusted
3 configuration servers, generating an alert to a designated administrator of a presence of an
4 unauthorized configuration server in the plurality of configuration servers.

1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 upon determining that the responding configuration server is not on the list of trusted
3 configuration servers, sending the request for the configuration parameter from the computer to a
4 server from the list of trusted configuration servers.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration server is a Dynamic Host
2 Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server.

1 6. A system for obtaining configuration parameters for connecting to a network, the system
2 comprising:

3 means for storing a list of trusted configuration servers in a computer;

4 means for broadcasting a request for a configuration parameter from the computer to a
5 plurality of configuration servers;

6 means for receiving a response to the request for the configuration parameter at the
7 computer, the response being from a responding configuration server from the plurality of
8 configuration servers;

9 means for comparing an identity of the responding configuration server with the list of
10 trusted configuration servers; and

11 means for upon verifying that the responding configuration server is on the list of trusted
12 configuration servers, requesting configuration parameters from the responding configuration
13 server.

1 7. The system of claim 6, wherein the list of trusted configuration servers is maintained on a
2 secure remote service card interface in the computer.

1 8. The system of claim 7, further comprising:

2 means for, upon determining that the responding configuration server is not on the list of
3 trusted configuration servers, generating an alert to a designated administrator of a presence of
4 an unauthorized configuration server in the plurality of configuration servers.

1 9. The system of claim 6, further comprising:

2 means for, upon determining that the responding configuration server is not on the list of
3 trusted configuration servers, sending the request for the configuration parameter from the
4 computer to a server from the list of trusted configuration servers.

1 10. The system of claim 6, wherein the configuration server is a Dynamic Host Configuration
2 Protocol (DHCP) server.

1 11. A computer program product, residing on a computer usable medium, for obtaining
2 configuration parameters for connecting to a network, the computer program product
3 comprising:

4 program code for storing a list of trusted configuration servers in a computer;

5 program code for broadcasting a request for a configuration parameter from the computer
6 to a plurality of configuration servers;

7 program code for receiving a response to the request for the configuration parameter at
8 the computer, the response being from a responding configuration server from the plurality of
9 configuration servers;

10 program code for comparing an identity of the responding configuration server with the
11 list of trusted configuration servers; and

12 program code for, upon verifying that the responding configuration server is on the list of
13 trusted configuration servers, requesting configuration parameters from the responding
14 configuration server.

1 12. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the list of trusted configuration
2 servers is maintained on a secure remote service card interface in the computer.

1 13. The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising:

2 program code for, upon determining that the responding configuration server is not on the
3 list of trusted configuration servers, generating an alert to a designated administrator of a
4 presence of an unauthorized configuration server in the plurality of configuration servers.

1 14. The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising program code for, upon
2 determining that the responding configuration server is not on the list of trusted configuration
3 servers, sending the request for the configuration parameter from the computer to a server from
4 the list of trusted configuration servers.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the configuration server is a
2 Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server.